OPINION

The restoration of City Hall

There come a time when a community has to fight to preserve its precious heritage, or lose it forever.

The time for Carbondaleans to preserve their proud past is now.

Time and neglect have silenced the bell and stopped the City Hall clock from telling all who enter and live in the city what time it is. The roof has been leaking for some time and many a pigeon has moved into the large area above the unused third floor and the clock tower. Old offices used by the city clerk have plaster and paint peeling off the walls. Pictures of the past mayors are stacked in a pile on a file cabinet instead of being displayed along the hallway leading to the remodeled Council Chambers.

In short, the beautiful Carbondale City Hall is in disrepair.

To do something about it, a group has been formed to restore the clock and building to its former beauty. Made up of ordinary citizens, they are now seeking funds from the city residents and businesses to support a project which has several goals.

The goal that The Committee To Restore Carbondale City Hall wants to reach first is the complete repair of the city clock and its lighting system. This first phase of the restoration project has already gotten underway. Starting with a $100 donation by local historian Mr. S. Robert Powell, made after the idea of restoring the clock was made in a NEWS editorial, the fund has now grown to over $550.

With a goal of just $3,000 needed to complete the repairs, it seems that with the support of the city residents – past and present -- that goal can be reached shortly.

The NEWS urges all Carbondaleans to support this project, which will help preserve the city's proud past for future generations.

Some say Carbondale is in bad times and headed for worse. The NEWS doesn't think so and we urge city residents to help us prove it by supporting the restoration.

We hope our readers will take a few minutes to read the statement below from the committee and think about helping them in the cause. The NEWS thinks the effort is worth it -- don't you?

(the information on the following two pages was given immediately below the above top-of-the-page editorial)